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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 20 March 1951

SUBJECT Arrival of Soviet
Armored Cars in Bulgaria

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Soviet Military Command for Southeast Europe has begun to send the newest type of Soviet heavy mobile war equipment to Bulgaria.
2. About seventy of the newest armored cars, improved models of the PKW and LKW which are diesel-powered, were unloaded between 15 and 18 February 1951 off various Soviet ships from Odessa. They were sent by rail to the interior, allegedly for two new mechanized divisions, but possibly for two of the present armored divisions or brigades.
3. [redacted] these vehicles are considered of great importance by the Soviets because the engines are stronger and 45 percent more economical than gasoline engines, being capable of 45 miles per gallon of fuel oil. [redacted] this indicates the emphasis being placed on Balkan Satellites by the Soviets because these cars were manufactured in December 1950 and only recently put into service by Soviet forces.
4. The same type of car is believed to have been sent recently to Hungary and Rumania.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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